

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
OF
S C O T L A N D,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 22d DAY OF MAY 1800.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



EDINBURGH:
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THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 22d day of MAY, and
concluded the 2d day of June, 1800.

I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl
of LEVEN and MELVILL produced,
and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 22. 1800.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National
CHURCH being convened and constituted,
there was produced to them, by the Right
Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN and
MELVILL, the KING's Commission, sealed
with the seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be
kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal
of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Ma-
jesty's

jesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly;—the tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIVS, Dei gratiâ, Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ, Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in vigesimum secundum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem Generalis Conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto Conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientia et fidelitate fidelissimi et prædilectissimi Nostri Consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven et Melvill, quod ad summum munus Nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum Generalem Conventum ritè exercendum et obeundem usquequaque sit instructus; Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum fidelissimum et prædilectissimum Nostrum Consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melvill, supremum Nostrum Commissionarium dicto Generali Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventui; dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram Nostram Personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, necnon præsentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti Generali Conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia, ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro Generali Ecclesiæ Conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis respectu, quàm quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentēs facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula, quæ dictus David Comes de Leven et Melvill, in hac Nostra commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti Conventus et Ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniae Scotiam vocatam, subditis Nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melvill, tanquam supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum suprâ mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, stricte mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Nostram commissionem à dicto vigesimo secundo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente

sequente sessione dicti Generalis Conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usquedum à Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, præsentibus sigillum Nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat., appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Nostram apud St James's, decimo quinto die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo, octingentesimo, Regnique Nostræ anno quadragesimo.

Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscriptam.



II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the
General Assembly, presented to them
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. The uniform experience We have had for so long a course of years, of your attachment to Our Person, of your zeal for the interests of Religion, and of the wisdom and prudence of your proceedings, cannot fail to enhance the satisfaction We have always felt in giving the sanction of Our Royal Authority to the Meetings of your Venerable Body.

The objects of your deliberations are among the most important that can engage the attention of men. The propagation of Christian Knowledge, the maintenance of the Reformed Religion, the discouragement of vice and immorality, and the diffusion of a spirit of charity and benevolence, and of submission to the laws, are ends which must excite in you the most ardent zeal for their attainment.

You will doubtless have felt, that your labours are become doubly important, and, in the same proportion, more painful and difficult, from the opposition of factious men, enemies of our Religion, and of all social order, and legal Government. The success with which you

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have

have hitherto withstood their pernicious designs, affords the surest ground of confidence, that the continuance of your exertions, united with those of Our other good and loyal subjects, will ultimately prove effectual, and that We shall be enabled, with the aid of Divine Providence, to transmit to posterity the unimpaired enjoyment of all the blessings, civil and religious, of our free and happy Constitution.

The distress under which a large portion of your fellow creatures must inevitably labour, during these times of scarcity with which it has pleased Almighty God to visit us, will not escape your attention; and will call upon you individually, in the discharge of your sacred functions, to inculcate with additional ardour the indispensable obligation of relieving, according to the abilities of each, the necessities of the poor.

We have again thought fit to appoint Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin DAVID, Earl of LEVEN and MELVILL, to be our Commissioner, to represent Our Person and Royal Authority in this present Assembly; not doubting, but that the same eminent qualifications which have recommended him to Our repeated choice, will continue to make him acceptable to you, in the execution of the high and important trust committed to his care. And We have charged him, in a most especial manner, to assure you of Our great sense of your steady and firm zeal for Our service, and of Our resolution to preserve and maintain the Church of Scotland as by law established, in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges.

Trusting in the goodness of Almighty God, that He will bless your pious labours with His especial favour, We commend you to His gracious protection; and so We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court of St James's, the 6th day of May 1800, in the fortieth year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

PORTLAND.

Addressed thus:—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Ministers and Elders, of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

III.

ADDRESS to his MAJESTY, on his late
Providential Escape from Assassina-
tion.*May it please Your Majesty,*

WE, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly, beg leave to approach Your Majesty's Throne, with trembling yet joyful hearts, on Your late Providential escape from the hand of a traiterous assassin.

That even treason itself should dare to attempt a life so precious to Your faithful subjects, which has been endeared to them by the exercise of every virtue that can adorn the character of a Patriot King, excites our utmost horror and indignation: While, at the same time, the guardian care of Divine Providence, in preserving the Father of his Country to his grateful and affectionate people, raises in our breast every sentiment of piety and thankfulness to the God of Heaven.

When we convey to Your Majesty our warmest congratulations on this awful event, we cannot fail to observe, how much the most imminent dangers illustrate Your Majesty's Christian fortitude and magnanimity; endear You still more and more to Your admiring subjects; and call forth our most fervent prayers, for the prolongation of a life so important, at this juncture, to them and to all the Nations of Europe, till Your Majesty shall have completed the glories of Your Reign, in the accomplishment of all Your exalted plans for the security of Great Britain, and the peace of the world.

That Almighty God may ever keep Your Majesty under His Divine protection; that He may bless You in Your Person, Family and Government; that he may bless Your Royal Consort the QUEEN, the PRINCE and PRINCESS OF WALES, and all the Royal Family; and that,
after

after a long and prosperous reign, You may exchange an earthly for a celestial crown, through the merits of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

Most faithful,

And most obedient Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH. }
May 23. 1800. }

GEORGE BAIRD, *Moderator.*



IV.

The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

THE gracious letter with which Your Majesty has been pleased to honour this meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the utmost respect and gratitude.

The approbation of the spirit and proceedings of former Assemblies, which Your Majesty's benignity has condescended to express with so much paternal affection, is peculiarly

peculiarly grateful to us as a Body, and operates on our feelings as an encouragement to follow, in attachment to Your Majesty's Person, in zeal for the interests of Religion, and in charity towards one another, the example of those enlightened and virtuous men who have gone before us; and to deserve, like them, that sanction of Royal Authority which gives solemnity and effect to the decisions of our National Church.

Impressed with a just sense of the important nature of those objects which claim our consideration, we beg leave to assure Your Majesty, that the propagation of Christian knowledge, the maintenance of the Reformed Religion, the discouragement of vice and immorality, and the diffusion of a spirit of charity and benevolence, and of submission to the laws, are ends which shall continue to excite in our minds the most ardent zeal for their attainment.

In the trying and eventful period in which we live, we have felt that our labours have become doubly important, both to private happiness and the public safety; while we have also had the mortification to discover, that in the same proportion they have been rendered more painful and difficult, by the opposition of factious men, enemies of our Religion, and of all social order and legal Government. We rejoice, that our honest and unremitting exertions, in union with those of Your Majesty's other good and loyal subjects, have hitherto been successful in frustrating their pernicious designs: And in full assurance of the continued favour of Providence to a righteous cause, we look forward with confidence to the termination of this great conflict, when Your Majesty shall be enabled to transmit to posterity the unimpaired enjoyment of all the blessings, civil and religious, of our free and happy constitution.

The distress under which a large portion of our fellow-creatures has inevitably laboured, during these times of scarcity with which it has pleased Almighty God to visit us, has repeatedly claimed our serious attention: And amidst the hardships to which our people must still submit, it gives us the most sincere satisfaction to assure Your Majesty, that in no period known to us have the good sense, the patriotism, and the charity of the country, been more conspicuously displayed. The care employed by the opulent and well-informed, to point out the nature and extent of the visitation, and to provide

the means of alleviating its pressure, has been most meritorious. Of this the poor themselves are not insensible; and the patience and resignation which they have very generally exercised under difficulties seldom known in our land, give us room to hope, that in the honest pursuits of industry, and in dutiful submission to lawful authority, they will quietly wait for the return of a more favourable harvest. Meanwhile, we beg leave to assure Your Majesty, that in the individual discharge of the duties of our function, we shall not fail to inculcate, with additional ardour, the indispensable obligation of relieving, according to the abilities of each, the necessities of the poor.

Your Majesty's Donation of L. 1000 for propagating Christian Knowledge in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, was received with much gratitude, as a fresh instance of Your paternal solicitude for the best interests of Your people, as well as of the confidence which You are pleased to repose in the wisdom and fidelity of this Assembly: And it shall be our endeavour, by a prudent and just application of it, to promote the pious purposes for which it is bestowed.

The appointment of the Earl of Leven and Melville to represent your Majesty's sacred person and royal authority in this present Assembly, we regard as a pleasing testimony of your affection to our Church. The attachment of this Noble Lord to your Majesty's person, his zeal for the interests of the Church of Scotland, and the virtues of his private life, the eminent qualifications which have recommended him to your Majesty's repeated choice, endear him to us in the execution of the high and important trust committed to his care. The flattering manner in which he has communicated the gracious assurance of the sense which your Majesty is pleased to entertain of our steady and firm zeal for your service, has given us the truest pleasure: And we rely with entire confidence in your Majesty's resolution to preserve and maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law established, in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges.

That Almighty God may continue to preserve Your sacred life, to guide Your Councils, and prosper Your administration: That he may bless our Most Gracious QUEEN, the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, and all the Royal Family;—and that, after a long life of eminent and exemplary virtue upon earth, You may, through
the

the merits of JESUS CHRIST our Lord, receive in Heaven the recompense of reward, are the sincere prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }
May 24. 1800. }

GEORGE BAIRD, *Moderator.*



V.

ADDRESS to His MAJESTY on the present Situation of Public Affairs.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly, beg leave to approach the Throne with sentiments of the sincerest attachment to Your Person and Government.

Grateful

Grateful to Providence for that happy Constitution under which Britons have so long enjoyed every blessing that can sweeten and adorn social life, we reflect with the deepest regret on those groundless complaints and murmurings which were heard at no distant period in every corner of our land, and which furnished a just subject of alarm to the friends of order and peace. But we rejoice to think, that the exertions of the virtuous, the writings of the wise, and the seasonable interposition of Public Authority, have served, by the blessing of Heaven, to counteract the insidious arts of the disaffected; and it affords us the sincerest satisfaction to be able to assure Your Majesty, that among the great body of the people committed to our care, there prevails an unshaken attachment to our excellent Constitution in Church and State, and a just abhorrence of that system of impiety and anarchy which hath spread misery and desolation through many parts of the earth.

In reviewing the events of a war, on the success of which depends the preservation of all that is dear to a virtuous mind, we admire the wisdom and the steadiness of Your Majesty's Councils, which have kept alive the hopes, and animated the exertions, of the other States of Europe; and while our devout acknowledgments ascend to the Lord of Hosts, who hath supported our righteous cause, with heartfelt pleasure we congratulate Your Majesty on the many important advantages which have been obtained in the course of last year, by the arms of our Country, and our Allies. We recollect, with joy, that during this period, Italy hath been delivered from the tyranny of lawless force; that to the kingdom of Naples its ancient Constitution hath been restored; that in Egypt, a desperate plan hath been frustrated, by which our enemies hoped to spread sedition and tumult through the remotest regions of the earth; and that the defeat of a formidable rival, whom their restless hostility had excited against us, hath placed the British possessions in India in a state of permanent tranquillity; and that, on the coast of Holland, a fleet, equipped for the very purpose of conveying invaders to our shores, hath surrendered to us without a battle, adding a new and a glorious trophy to the many signal victories which the valour of our seamen hath obtained.

In this rapid succession of events which contribute so much to the security of our native country, and the general interests of mankind, we adore the providence of that Almighty Being, to whom " the glory and the vic-
" tory

“tory belong;” and we would improve them as a ground of hope, that the cause of religion and good order will triumph over all opposition; and that the efforts of Britain and her Allies will be crowned with such further success as may ensure a happy termination of the important contest in which they are engaged.

That Almighty God may protect YOUR MAJESTY’S person, direct Your Councils, and prosper Your Administration; that he may bless our GRACIOUS QUEEN CHARLOTTE, the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, and all the Royal Family; and that after swaying the sceptre for many years with wisdom and felicity, over a loyal, a virtuous, and a happy people, you may, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord, receive that unfading crown which awaits the righteous, are the earnest prayers of

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty’s most dutiful,

Most faithful,

And most obedient Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }
May 30. 1800. }

GEORGE BAIRD, *Moderator.*



VI.

COMMISSION of the General Assembly
to certain Ministers and Ruling El-
ders, for discussing affairs referred to
them.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1800. Sess. 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do, nominate, commission and appoint, the Reverend Dr GEORGE BAIRD, Principal of the University of Edinburgh, their Moderator: And,—From the *Presbytery of Aberdeen*, Dr William Laurence Brown, Principal and Professor of Divinity, Marischall College, Dr Gilbert Gerard, Professor of Divinity in King's College, Mr George Morison at Banchory Devenick, Mr John Leslie at Fintray, *Ministers*; William Robertson, Esq; Advocate, Procurator for the Church, William Simpson, Esq; Cashier to the Royal Bank, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Marischall College*, Dr Robert Hamilton, Professor of Philosophy in that University:—From the *Presbytery of Kincardine O'Neal*, Mr Alexander Mearns at Cluny, Mr Andrew Watson at Tarland, Mr John Roger at Kincardine O'Neal, *Ministers*; William Macdonald, Esq; of Renetton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Ellon*, Mr George Pirie at Slains, Mr Duncan Mearns at Tarvis, *Ministers*; Dr Hugh Macleod, Professor of Church History, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Garioch*, Mr James Douglas at Premnay, Mr George Skene Keith at Keithhall and Kinkell, Mr Robert Shepherd at Daviot, *Ministers*; William Gordon, Esq; of Rothney, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Deer*, Mr William Anderson at St Fergus,
Mr

Mr James Greig at Pittligo, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Turriff, Mr Alexander Johnstone at Monquhitter, Mr William Stuart at Turriff, *Ministers*; Mr Archibald Milne, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Fordyce, Mr Walter Chalmers at Deskford, Mr George Donaldson at Rathven, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Strathbogie, Mr Francis Forbes at Grange, Mr John Cruickshank at Glas, *Ministers*; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Aberlour, Mr George Cruickshank at Rothes, Mr William Spence at Inveraven, *Ministers*; The Honourable Arthur Duff of Orton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Abernethy, Dr John Anderson at Kingusie, Mr John Gordon at Alvie, *Ministers*; Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Elgin, Mr Lewis Gordon at Drainie, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, *Ministers*; The Most Noble the Marquis of Huntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Forres, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, Mr John Macdonell at Forres, *Ministers*; George Cumin, Esq; of Relugas, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Forres, Robert Gordon, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of Nairn, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr John Paterson at Auldearn, *Ministers*; Alexander Grant, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Inverness, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kirkhill, Mr William Smith at Petty, *Ministers*; Simon Frazer of Faraline, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Chanonry, Mr James Smith at Avoch, Mr Robert Smith at Cromarty, *Ministers*; Mr William Sprott, Solicitor at Law, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*: From the *Burgh* of Fortrose, William Inglis, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of Tain, Mr John Ross at Logie Easter, Mr Thomas Urquhart at Rosekeen, *Ministers*; Charles Ross, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Dingwall, Mr Angus Bethune at Alness, Mr Harry Robertson at Kiltarn, *Ministers*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Abertarph, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, Mr James Fowler at Urquhart, *Ministers*; Col Macdonald of Dalness, Esq; *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of Sky, Mr Martin Macpherson at Sleat, Mr Alexander Campbell at Portree, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable Alexander Wentworth, Lord Macdonald, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Uist, Mr Edmund

mund Macqueen at Barra, Dr John Macleod at Harris, *Ministers*; Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr John Macrae at Glenhiell, Mr Alexander Downie at Lochalsh, *Ministers*; Bailie Daniel Miller, merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Tongue*, Mr John Thomson at Durness, Mr James Dingwall at Farr, *Ministers*; Mr William Maclean, merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Caitbness*, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Patrick Nicolson at Thurso, *Ministers*; Sir John Sinclair, Baronet, of Ulbster, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Wick*, James Horne, Esq; W. S.:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldsay, Mr Hugh Stalker at Kirkwall, *Ministers*; Thomas Gordon, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cairstone*, Mr John Malcolm at Firth and Stenness, Mr Gavin Hamilton at Hoy and Græmsay, *Ministers*; David Reid, Esq; of his Majesty's Customs, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *North Isles*, Mr John Anderson at Stronfa and Eda, Mr George Barry at Shapinsha, *Ministers*; John Grieve, Esq; Commissioner of Excise, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr William Jack at North Mavin, Mr Thomas Macfarlane at Braffay, *Ministers*; Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr John Erskine, Edinburgh, Dr David Johnstone, North Leith, Dr William Moodie, Edinburgh, Mr William Cameron at Kirknewton, Dr James Finlayson, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Macknight, South Leith, *Ministers*; Charles Hope, Esq; Advocate, Andrew Wauchope, Esq; of Niddry Marshall, David Willison, Esq; one of the present Bailies of Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Edinburgh*, The Right Honourable Sir James Stirling, Baronet, Lord Provost of the City, Mr Thomas Kennedy, Convener of the Trades:—From the *Presbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr John Henderson at Queensferry, Dr Hugh Meiklejohn at Abercorn, Mr John Muckersay at West-Calder, Mr Robert Rennie at Borrowstounness, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable Lord Torphichen, Mr John Meek, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, Mr Alexander Macnab:—From the *Presbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr William Strachan at Culter, Mr James Somerville at Symington, *Ministers*; John Brown, Esq; of Cultermains, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Peebles*, Mr David Anderson at Kirkurd, Mr Alexander Ker at Stobo, *Ministers*; James Montgomery,

Montgomery, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Peebles*, Thomas Cranstoun, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery of Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Thomas Coulstoun, assistant at Pennycuik, Mr Henry Home Grieve at Crichton, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Haddington*, Mr David Pyper at Pencaitland, Mr George Hamilton at Gladsmuir, Mr Andrew Johnston at Saltoun, *Ministers*; William Law, Esq; of Elvingstone, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Haddington*, Robert Roughead, Esq; present Provost of Haddington:—From the *Burgh of North Berwick*, Sir James Suttie of Balgone, Baronet:—From the *Presbytery of Dunbar*, Mr James Williamson at Whitekirk, Mr Alexander Graham at Spott, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable the Earl of Hadinton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dunbar*, The Honourable Henry Erskine, Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Dunse*, Mr George Cunningham at Dunse, Mr John Stewart at Greenlaw, *Ministers*; Mathew Sandilands, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Chirnside*, Mr Abraham Home at Ayton, Mr George Tod at Eyemouth, *Ministers*; George Buchan, Esq; of Kello, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Kelso*, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, Mr William Blackie at Yetholm, *Ministers*; Mr William Robertson, tenant in Friars, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Jedburgh*, Dr Samuel Charters at Wiltoun, Mr Benjamin Dickison at Kirkton, Mr Thomas Campbell at Ancrum, *Ministers*; Major John Rutherford of Mossburnford, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Lauder*, Mr Robert Dawson at Stow, Mr James Duncan at Merton, *Ministers*; George Baillie, Esq; of Jerviswood, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Lauder*, The Right Honourable James, Earl of Lauderdale:—From the *Presbytery of Selkirk*, Mr John Scade at St Boswell's, Mr Thomas Hardie at Ashkirk, *Ministers*; Mark Pringle, Esq; of Clifton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Selkirk*, Mr Alexander Cunningham, jeweller in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Annan*, Mr James Yorstoun at Hoddam, Mr Henry Duncan at Ruthwell, *Ministers*; Joseph Norris, Esq; of Newfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Annan*, Henry Jardine, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery of Langholm*, Mr Thomas Martin at Langholm, Mr James Arkle at Castletown, *Ministers*; James Robertson, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Lochmaben*, Mr Robert Little at Applegirth, Mr William Sibbald at
E Johnstone,

Johnstone, Mr James Crichton at Wamphray, *Ministers*; Mr David Welsh at Braefoot, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Lochmaben*, Mr William Johnstone, solicitor, Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Penpont*, Mr John Yorstoun at Morton, Mr James Keyden at Keir, *Ministers*; Mr James Boe in Closeburn, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Sanquhar*, Mr Archibald Douglas, solicitor, Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Dumfries*, Mr James Macmillan at Torthorwald, Mr George Duncan at Lochrutton, Mr John Wightman at Kirkmahoe, *Ministers*; Captain Thomas Crieghton of Auchinskeoch, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dumfries*, Hugh Corrie, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery of Kirkcudbright*, Dr Robert Muter at Kirkcudbright, Mr James Thomson at Rerrick, Mr William Thorburn at Girthon, *Ministers*; Ephraim Lockhart, Esq; of the Customs at Leith, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Wigton*, Mr James Black at Penningham, Mr Peter Young at Wigton, *Ministers*; Robert Hathorn Stewart, Esq; of Physgill, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Wigton*, John Jeffrey of Allerbeck, Esq; writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Stranraer*, Dr John Mackenzie at Port Patrick, Mr William Rose at Kirkcolm, *Ministers*; Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genoch, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Stranraer*, Thomas Smith, Esq; one of the Principal Clerks to the Bills:—From the *Presbytery of Ayr*, Dr William Macquhae at St Quivox, Mr James Thomson at Girvan, Mr John Ritchie at Torbolton, Mr John Moodie at Riccarton, Dr William Rutherford at Muirkirk, *Ministers*; Thomas Kennedy, Esq; of Dunure, James Ferguson, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh of Ayr*, The Honourable George Fergusson of Hermand, one of the Senators of the College of Justice:—From the *Presbytery of Irvine*, Mr Arthur Oughterson at Kilbride, Mr James Adam at Cumbray, Mr David Ritchie at Kilmarnock, *Ministers*; David Boyle, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Paisley*, Dr Walter Young at Erskine, Mr Robert Boog, Abbey Church, Paisley, Mr John Forrest at Port-Glasgow, Mr Colin Gillies at Paisley, *Ministers*; Robert Barclay, Esq; eldest Magistrate of Paisley, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Clathick, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh of Renfrew*, John Connel, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Hamilton*, Dr James Meek at Cambuslang, Dr Michael Macculloch at Bothwell, Mr James Hamilton at Shotts, *Ministers*; Professor George Jardine, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Lanark*, Dr James Ferguson at Pettinain,

nain, Mr James Macconochie at Crawford, *Ministers*; John Fullarton, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Lanark*, James Miller, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Glasgow*, Dr William Lockhart at Glasgow, Mr James Jack at Kirkintilloch, Mr James Lapplie at Campsie, Mr David Dow at Cathcart, *Ministers*; James Hopkirk, Esq; of Dalbeath, Mr David Alison, one of the masters of the grammar school Glasgow, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City of Glasgow*, John Dunlop, Esq; of Rosebank:—From the *University of Glasgow*, Mr James Mylne, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Glasgow:—From the *Burgh of Rutherglen*, James Davidson, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery of Dunbarton*, Mr John Allan at Row, Mr Gordon Stewart at Bonhill, Mr George Drummond at Roseneath, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable the Lord President of the Court of Session, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dunbarton*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Succoth:—From the *Presbytery of Dunoon*, Mr Archibald Maclea at Rothsay, Mr Dougald Macdougall at Lochgoilhead, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Rothsay*, The Honourable William Macleod Bannatyne, one of the Senators of the College of Justice:—From the *Presbytery of Kintyre*, Dr George Robertson at Campbeltown, Mr Donald Macdonald at Kilbean, Mr Duncan Smith at Kilmore, in Arran, *Ministers*; Robert Davidson, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Campbeltown*, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq;:—From the *Presbytery of Inveraray*, Mr Dugald Campbell at Kilmichael Glassary, Mr Francis Stewart at Craignish, *Ministers*; John Macneil, Esq; of Oakfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Inveraray*, Humphry Trafurd Campbell, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Lorn*, Dr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchy, Mr George Campbell at Ardchattan, *Ministers*; John Campbell of Lochend, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Mull*, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, Mr Archibald Maccoll at Tiry, *Ministers*; Ranald Macdonald, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dunkeld*, Mr John Brodie at Kinloch, Mr William Chalmers at Auchtergaven, Mr James Patrick Bannerman at Cargill, Mr Hugh Macdougall at Killin, *Ministers*; John Hagart, Esq; Advocate, John Macritchie, Esq; writer, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery of Perth*, Mr Antony Dow at Kilspindie, Mr David Dow at Errol, Mr Thomas Taylor at Tibbermuir, Mr John Rogers, assistant at Collace, *Ministers*; Bailie James Dickson,

son, bookseller, Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Beatson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr John Russell at Stirling, Mr James Robertson at Gargunnock, *Ministers* ; William Murray, Esq; of Touchadam, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Stirling*, Convener John Hutton :—From the *Presbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr John Baird at Dunning, Mr Ralph Taylor at Monzie, Mr William Graham at Fossaway, *Ministers* ; Patrick Murray, Esq; younger of Auchtertyre, Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunblane*, Dr Patrick Graham at Aberfoyle, Mr David Simson at Tulliallan, *Ministers* ; William Campbell, Esq; writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinross, Mr Allan Maclean at Dunfermline, Mr James Hutton at Beath, *Ministers* ; Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby younger of Tullibodie, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Inverkeithing*, John Clerk, Esq; younger of Eldin, Advocate :—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr David Swan at Scoonie, Dr John Thomson at Markinch, Mr Thomas Scott at Ballingry, *Ministers* ; Colonel Roger Ayton of Inchdairny, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Cupar*, Dr Michael Greenlaw at Criegh, Mr Robert Bogie at Logie, Mr John Martin at Strathmiglo, Mr James Keyden at Dunbog, *Ministers* ; Dr John Govan, physician in Cupar, George Greenlaw of Hilton, Esq; *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh* of *Cupar*, Mr Walter Cook, writer, Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery* of *St Andrew's*, Dr Robert Arnot, Professor of Divinity, St Mary's College, Mr Thomas Adamson at Cameron, Mr Archibald Gillies at St Monance, Mr James Macdonald at Anstruther Wester, *Ministers* ; Niel Fergusson, Esq; Sheriff-depute of Fife, David Monypenny, Esq; younger of Pitmillie, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh* of *St Andrew's*, Joseph Maccormick, Esq; Advocate :—From the *University* of *St Andrew's*, Dr George Hill, Principal of St Mary's College :—From the *Presbytery* of *Meikle*, Mr James Ogilvie at Effie and Nevy, Mr Colin Symers at Alyth, Mr James Badenoch at Kingoldrum, *Ministers* ; Sir William Ramsay, Baronet, of Banff, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr Thomas Ogilvie at Kirrymuir, Mr James Mitchell at Aberlemno, *Ministers* ; Mr Henry David Hill, Professor of Greek in the United College of St Andrew's, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Forfar*, Robert Grahame, Esq; of Fintry :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dundee*, Mr Patrick Macvicar at Dundee, Mr Francis Nicoll at Main's and Strathmartin, Mr Alexander Davie

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at Inchtute, *Ministers*; George Paterfon, Esq; of Castle-huntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Dundee, Mr Patrick Smith, one of the present Magistrates of Dundee:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr Alexander Carnegie at Inverkeillor, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Milne, merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Brechin*, Mr Alexander Peters at Logie Pert, Mr Andrew Ferguson at Maryton, Mr Robert Coutts, assistant at Brechin, *Ministers*; John Moncrieff, Esq; apothecary, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Brechin*, Adam Gillies, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fordoun*, Mr James Scott at Benholme, Mr James Traill at Ecclesgreig, Mr George Cook at Laurencekirk, *Ministers*; Professor John Stewart, Marischall College, Aberdeen, *Ruling Elder*:—And the General Assembly added thereto, Mr John Inglis, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftner, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to choose their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred, to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to, the instructions given, or to be given, by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with re-

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lation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorized by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above mentioned: And, in all their actings they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by, the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies

blies One thousand seven hundred and twelve, and One thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly One thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly One thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.



VII.

COMMISSION to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1800. Sess. 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr GEORGE BAIRD, one of the Ministers of the City, and Principal of the University of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the Ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr George Morison, Mr Andrew Watson, Mr George Pirie, Mr George Skene Keith, Dr George Moir, Mr William Stuart, Mr Walter Chalmers, Mr Francis Forbes, Mr George Cruickshank, Dr John Anderson, Mr Lewis Gordon, Mr William Stephen, Mr Hugh Calder, Mr William Smith, Mr James Smith, Mr John Ross, Mr Angus Bethune, Mr James Fowler, Mr Alexander Campbell, Dr John Macleod, Mr Alexander Downie, Mr John Thomson, Mr William Sutherland, Mr James Watson, Mr John Malcolm, Mr John Anderson, Mr William Jack, Mr John Henderson, Dr Hugh Meiklejohn, Mr Thomas Gray, Mr David Anderson, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Mr David Pyper, Mr James Williamson, Mr George Cunningham, Mr Abraham Home, Mr Andrew Bell, Mr Thomas Hardie, Mr Henry Duncan, Mr Thomas Martin, Mr James Crichton, Mr John Yorstoun, Mr John Wightman, Dr John Mackenzie, Mr Thomas Ritchie, Mr David Ritchie, Dr Walter Young, Dr James Meek, Mr James Lapslie, Mr John Allan, Mr Dugald Macdougall, Dr George Robertson, Mr Duncan Smith, Mr Dugald

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1800.

Dugald Campbell, Dr Joseph Macintyre, Mr Alexander Campbell, Mr John Brodie, Mr Anthony Dow, Mr James Robertson, Mr John Baird, Dr Patrick Graham, Mr Archibald Smith, Mr James Keyden, Dr Robert Arnot, Dr George Hill, Mr James Ogilvy, Mr James Mitchell, Mr Francis Nicol, Mr William Milligan, Mr Alexander Peters, Mr James Scott, Mr George Cook, Dr Lockhart, Glasgow, *Ministers*; The Procurator, William Macdonald Esq; Dr Hugh Macleod, Mr Alexander Youngson, Mr George Andrew, The Honourable Arthur Duff, Dr Gregory Grant, The Marquis of Huntly, Mr George Cumin, Mr Robert Gordon, Mr Alexander Grant, Simon Fraser, Esq; Mr William Sprott, Mr William Inglis, Charles Ross, Esq; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, Mr Coll Macdonald, Lord Macdonald, Mr Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr William Maclean, Sir John Sinclair, Mr James Horne, Mr Thomas Gordon, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Grieve, Professor Dalzel, Charles Hope, Esq; Bailie Willison, The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Kennedy, Mr John Meek, James Montgomery, Esq; Mr Thomas Cranston, The Lord Advocate, William Law, Esq; Provost Robert Rothead, Sir James Suttie, The Earl of Hadinton, The Honourable Henry Erskine, The Earl of Lauderdale, Mr Alexander Cunningham, Mr Joseph Norris, Mr Henry Jardine, Mr James Robertson, Mr William Johnston, Mr Archibald Douglas, Mr Hugh Corrie, Mr Thomas Smith, Lord Hermand, David Boyle, Esq; John Dunlop, Esq; Mr James Davidson, The Lord President, John Lamont, Esq; Lord Bannatyne, Robert Davidson, Esq; William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; Ranald Macdonald Esq; Mr John Macritchie, Bailie James Dickson, Mr Alexander Beatson, William Murray, Esq; Patrick Murray, Esq; Mr William Campbell, writer, John Clerk, Esq; Colonel Roger Ayton, Mr George Greenlaw, Mr Walter Cook, David Monypenny, Esq; Joseph Maccormick, Esq; Sir William Ramsay, Baronet, Robert Graham, Esq; Mr Thomas Miln, Mr John Moncrieff, Adam Gillies, Esq; Professor Mylne, Glasgow, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of, his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon

due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design, expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of, the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies; and to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert, in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations, of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning Missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator
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or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the Missionaries, except upon receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners, or gentlemen of the district, shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration, that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall, in like manner, bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty: That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be Ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be Ministers: and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme) upon

upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those Members who shall then be present to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly aile, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person, once employed, and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting.- And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee
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their answer to these letters, at furthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible: And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of Missionaries, &c., do not exceed the sum in the grant.



VIII.

[*Re-transmitted.*]

Overture respecting the Attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall.

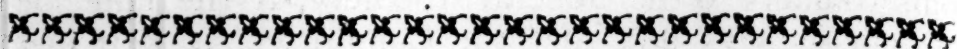
Edinburgh, May 29. 1797. Sess. ult.

THE Committee on the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, respecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Halls, having maturely deliberated on the said Overture, Report to the Venerable Assembly, That, in their opinion, it ought to be expressed in the following terms, *viz.*, “ It is Overtured, that Students “ in Divinity, who propose to prosecute their studies “ for six Sessions, should be required to give as much “ partial attendance, during the currency of those Sessions, in the Divinity Halls, which they respectively “ attend, as shall, in the whole, amount to six months.”

The General Assembly approved of the above report, and ordered the same to be transmitted, as an Overture, for the consideration of Presbyteries.

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IX.

[Re-transmitted.]

Edinburgh, May 25. 1798. Sess. 8.

Upon the Report of the Committee on the Clause of the Overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, respecting the course of University Education, to be observed by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, the General Assembly unanimously agreed to transmit the following Overture on that subject, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, enjoining them to send up their opinions thereon to the next Assembly.

Overture respecting the Course of University Education, to be observed by Students, previous to their entering the Divinity Hall.

WHEREAS it has been represented, That Students intended for the Holy Ministry, do sometimes hurry over their course of Philosophy in Two Sessions of the University, it is overtured, that it be recommended to Students, previous to their entering a Divinity Hall, to study Literature and Philosophy at an University, during a course of five complete Sessions, in the following order, *viz.*,

Session 1st, Humanity or Latin, with the Elements of Greek, in the first Humanity and Greek Classes.

Session 2^d, Latin and Greek, in the higher Humanity and Greek Classes; with the Elements of Mathematics.

Session 3^d, Logic, with Greek and Mathematics in the higher Classes.

Session 4th, Natural and Moral Philosophy; but not
Session 5th, both in the same Session; together with
Latin

Latin again, or Greek, or Mathematics, in one or more of the higher Classes.

But that it shall be expressly enacted, That no Professor of Divinity shall admit any Student into the Divinity Hall, until he produce certificates of his having studied at an University, during three complete Sessions, in the following Classes, *viz.*, Logic, together with Greek in the higher Greek Class; and Natural and Moral Philosophy; it being, in this case, understood, that such Students are well grounded in Latin, and the Elements of Greek, previous to their entering the University.



X.

[*Re-transmitted.*]

Edinburgh, May 28. 1798. *Sess. ult.*

Upon the Report of the Committee for classing returns to Overtures,—The Assembly unanimously agreed to re-transmit the Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers; also the Overture respecting the Attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall; and particularly, enjoin such Presbyteries as have sent no returns, to send up their Opinions to next Assembly; and that Presbyteries shall appoint a day for the consideration of these two Overtures at their first Meeting, after receiving the printed Acts of Assembly; and that they shall also take into their consideration on the same day, the Overture respecting the Course of University Education, to be observed by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, transmitted by this Assembly.

New Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. *Sess. 8.*

THE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of Religion and of this Church may be exposed

posed, by licensing any to preach the Gospel who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations shall be strictly observed :

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the Roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor a certificate from the Minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence ; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring Minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views ; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied, from which it may be clearly ascertained that, in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some winter-sessions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been enrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity for the term of six Sessions : Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in four Sessions ; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in five Sessions. And the Assembly do further ordain, That in each of these cases, Students shall be enrolled by the Professors during the several Sessions of their respective Courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegesis in Latin, on some controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with such other exercises as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. And the Assembly further enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Professor for his certificates, that he may be proposed for trials, and that the preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery during the currency of the last Session of his Course, as above described ; with this limitation, that if the said last Session is to be claimed as a Session of regular attendance, he shall, toward the conclusion thereof, obtain

tain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the same to the Presbytery or Synod.

III. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist that every Student shall deliver his first Discourse some time during his second Session, at the latest, and the remainder of his Discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the last Session of his Course.

IV. When a Student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting the certificate or certificates in favour of the Student, that are specified in the third paragraph of the fifth section of this act; to desire him to attend the same; and to inform him, that, previously to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumstances may permit, to wait on such Ministers of the Presbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations.

1st, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2^d, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3^d, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery a certificate or certificates from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his Discourses, in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life. And the General Assembly do likewise hereby enact, That the Presbytery shall record at full
I length

length the said certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged such certificate or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the same, if demanded.

4th, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; found in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the year proceeding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery, in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been, during that term, bearing, that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in these respects, to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student strictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If, after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificate, in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VI. The General Assembly do likewise hereby enact and declare, That at the request of the Student, it shall be competent to any Presbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any parts thereof, certifying to the Presbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary steps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that such parts of the Public and Private Trials as have been already gone through have been received with approbation.

VII. If a Student have studied, either in whole or in part, in Protestant Universities, which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, that no Student, in such circumstances shall be admitted even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Assembly ordain, That if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon Public Trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof: And the Presbytery clerk is hereby required to transmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate or certificates laid before the Presbytery in favour of the Student, in order that the same may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular inquiry shall be made, whether any of the members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon Public Trials: And that the Synod then, taking into consideration the extract produced, and the whole of the case, shall judge of the expediency of allowing the Presbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or, if in any case the Presbytery clerk shall fail to transmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the
Student

Student may produce to the Synod, by himself, or by any member of the Court, the extract of the same which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon Public Trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1st, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church History; 2^d, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; 3^d, An Exegesis in Latin on some controverted Head in Divinity; 4th, A Homily in English; 5th, An Exercise and Addition; 6th, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; 7th, A popular Sermon; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several Discourses.

X. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order.

1st, They shall, deliberately and seriously, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall by no means grant him a License in his present circumstances.

2^d, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

3^d, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions that are appointed to be put to all who pass Trials by act 10. Assembly 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula* which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*.

4th, The Presbytery shall order the act of Assembly 1759, against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

Lastly, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to license the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their Clerk to furnish him with an extract of his license.

XI. For the better observance of this act, the General Assembly ordain, 1st, That it shall be printed among their

their other printed acts; 2d, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form; 3d, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective Halls once at least during every Session; and at such times as they have reason to expect the attendance of the greatest number of Students, for that Session; and, *lastly*, That a copy of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Presbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the said Clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of their Members.



XI.

Order and Injunction of the General Assembly, to the Presbyteries of the Church, concerning Teachers and Schoolmasters.

Edinburgh June 2. 1800. Sess. ult.

THE General Assembly called for the Report of the Committee on Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools; and the same was given in and read. The General Assembly having considered this report of the Committee, who had been directed to class the reports of Presbyteries concerning Schoolmasters, whether of parochial schools, or schools of any other description; and it appearing, that not a fourth part of the Presbyteries of the Church have made any report; the Assembly peremptorily enjoin all the other Presbyteries of the Church, to send up to next General Assembly particular reports of their obedience to the order of last Assembly. The General Assembly trust, that those Presbyteries which have sent up particular reports, will continue the same laudable and vigilant attention to the important object specially committed to their inspection; and that they will not fail to transmit to next Assembly any new facts

facts which may fall within their observation. The General Assembly recommend to all Presbyteries to take the method which appears to them most expedient, of examining the Teachers on the branch of knowledge which they profess to teach, to require all parochial and established schoolmasters to subscribe the Confession of Faith and Formula, if they have not already done so, and to ask all teachers of youth, without exception, to produce to the Presbytery attestations of their having taken the oaths to Government; and they order a particular report of obedience to this recommendation to be made to next Assembly. And further, the General Assembly enjoin all the Presbyteries of this Church, to transmit, without delay, attested copies of their reports to the Assembly, to the Sheriffs within whose jurisdiction they are situated: And they instruct the clerks to keep the reports sent up to this Assembly, and the report of the Committee on this subject, in safe custody. And the General Assembly appoint their clerks, to cause separate copies of this order to be printed, together with the injunction of last Assembly relative to this matter; and to transmit copies thereof to the Moderator of each Presbytery of the Church, to be laid by him before the Presbytery, at their first ordinary meeting after receiving the same.

Follows a repetition of the Injunction of the General Assembly
1799.

The General Assembly enjoin all Presbyteries of this Church to be diligent in exercising those powers which the laws of the land and of the Church have committed to them, with respect to the education of youth within their bounds; and particularly, to call before them all teachers of youth, whether in parochial schools or schools of another description, and to take trial of their sufficiency and qualifications in those branches of education which they profess to teach. And the Assembly recommend to the Procurator of the Church, to give his advice and assistance to all the Presbyteries of the Church, relative to this matter; and authorise him to carry on, at the public expence, such processes as may appear to be necessary for enforcing the sentences, or ascertaining the powers, of the judicatories of the Church relative to schools; and the Assembly request his Majesty's Advocate and Solicitor-General to concur with the Procurator

tor in supporting the jurisdiction of the Church. And further, the General Assembly enjoin all the Presbyteries of the Church to report to the next Assembly a list of all the schools within their bounds, specifying what is taught in each school; whether the schools be held on the Lord's day, or on other days of the week; in what way the schoolmasters are supported or maintained; whether they act for themselves, or are employed by, or under, the direction of others; what number of scholars attend each school at the time of making the report; and, in general, whatever else shall appear to the Presbytery of importance, respecting the schools within their bounds.



XII.

Recommendation by the General Assembly, for promoting a Subscription towards defraying the Expence of the Appeal in the Cause relating to the Schoolmaster of Bothwell; and Order for Printing the Appeal Case prepared by the Procurator.

Edinburgh, 2d June 1800. Sess. ult.

THE Committee appointed to take the necessary steps in the cause relating to the Schoolmaster of Bothwell, having reported to the Assembly, That the Appeal from the two last interlocutors of the Court of Session in that cause, has been heard and determined by the House of Peers; and that the interlocutors complained of have been finally reversed: That though the Committee had received L. 118 : 14 : 10 from the voluntary contribution of the Presbyteries, and L. 80 from the funds of the Church, the expence incurred has, notwithstanding, considerably exceeded the funds with which the Committee were intrusted, and that the deficiency amounts to upwards of L. 196. The General Assembly considering, that

that the judgment which has been ultimately pronounced in this cause, is of general importance, as it has effectually established the exclusive jurisdiction of the Church, with regard to the qualifications and the trial of parochial schoolmasters: and considering, at the same time, that the state of the funds of the Church does not allow the Assembly at present to make good the whole of the expence incurred, did and hereby do earnestly recommend it to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of this Church, and especially to those who have not hitherto contributed, to promote a Subscription among their members, in order to assist the funds of the Church, in extinguishing a debt, which the final decision of this cause, so important in its consequences to the whole country, has occasioned: And the General Assembly appoint the Clerks of Assembly to cause this minute to be immediately printed, at the public expence, and to transmit a copy thereof, without delay, to the Moderators of the several Presbyteries, which they hereby enjoin them to lay before the said Presbyteries respectively, at their first ordinary meeting after it shall come to their hands: And further, the General Assembly appoint the said Moderators to remit to Mr William Murray, agent for the Church, whatever sums shall be subscribed within their respective Presbyteries, and, if possible, to do this, on or before the 1st day of October next: And the General Assembly renew the appointment of the Committee, with instructions to attend to the progress of the subscription, and to the application of the sums which shall be received by the agent; and to report the result to next General Assembly.

The General Assembly, considering at the same time, that the Appeal Case prepared by the Procurator in this cause, contains a statement of facts, which it would be extremely useful to render generally known through the Church, they appoint the Clerks to cause such a number of copies thereof to be printed, as the Committee shall think expedient, to circulate them among the several Presbyteries, and to apply to the Cashier of the Church for the sum necessary to defray the expence, which the Assembly hereby authorise him to advance.



XIII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next
General Assembly.

Edinburgh, 2d June 1800. Sess. ult.

THE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday, the 21st day of May 1801.

Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

ANDREW DALZEL, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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TABLE

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ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the Year 1800, which are not printed at full length.

Thursday, May 22. 1800. Sess. I.

AFTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr WILLIAM MOODIE, one of the Ministers of the City, and Professor of Hebrew in the University, of Edinburgh, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And after Prayer by the said Dr William Moodie, the Reverend Dr GEORGE BAIRD, Principal of the University of Edinburgh, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The General Assembly being thus constituted, the KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID, Earl of LEVEN and MELVILL, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, was read, and ordered to be recorded.

See Printed
Acts, No. I.

The KING's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

And No. II.

The COMMISSIONER's speech at opening the Assembly, and the MODERATOR's speech in return thereto.

His MAJESTY's Royal Warrant for L. 1000 Sterling for Reformation of the Highlands, &c. was given in to the Assembly, ordered to be recorded, and thereafter delivered to the Procurator.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

An humble and loyal Address to his Majesty, on his late Providential Escape from Assassination, unanimously agreed upon; and the same Committee appointed to prepare a Draught thereof.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

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A Committee for Overtures named.

A Committee for Bills, References and Appeals named.
Adjournment.

Friday, May 23. 1800. *Sess.* 2.

Sederunt.

New Commissions produced.

A Diet spent in Prayer.

See Printed
Acts, No. III.

The draught of an Address to his Majesty, as unanimously agreed to yesterday, was brought in, and approved; and his Grace the Lord Commissioner, at the Assembly's desire, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

Act VII. of the Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of business, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to Preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 24. 1800. *Sess.* 3.

Sederunt.

New Commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in and read.

No. IV. The draught of the Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly being brought in, and approved, his Grace the Lord High Commissioner, at the Assembly's desire, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

A Report by the Trustees of the Widows' Fund respecting the Election of Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood to be sole Collector of the said Fund, was given in to the Assembly by Dr Finlayson, their Preses. The Assembly unanimously approved of the Report, and confirmed the Election and Admission of Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, Baronet, to the sole Office of Collector or Receiver of the said Fund.

Upon a Motion, the Decision of last Assembly respecting the Ordination of Elders at Dundee, was read. The Report of the Presbytery of Dundee, as ordered by last Assembly, was called for, and given in by the Moderator of the Presbytery, with Extract Minutes of the Kirk-session of Dundee: The whole ordered to lie on the Table till Thursday, and then the said Report, and whole cause, to be taken into consideration.

A Committee appointed to class the reports made by Presbyteries, in consequence of the Order of last Assembly concerning Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools, and to report on Friday.

The Committee on the Bothwell Cause appointed to make their Report on the same day.

The Roll of Causes transmitted by the Committee of Bills was called for, produced, and read.

Causes fixed.

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A Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of last General Assembly. And,

A Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audite the Accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other Public Accounts, consider the State of the Church's Public Money, and prepare Overtures about the same.

The Committee for Overtures was appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members any Instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Assembly; and to receive and consider any Accounts that shall be given them of the State of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee for Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 26. 1800. Sess. 4.

Sederunt.

New Commissions produced.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

The Overture respecting the low salaries of Parish-schoolmasters, read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

The Report of the Committee respecting the Overture about catechising Parishes approved of, and the Overture dismissed, in respect that this object is sufficiently provided for by the existing laws of the Church.

The Report of the Committee for bills given in, and read.

The Assembly unanimously approve of the Report of the Committee refusing to transmit a Petition of Mr John Wilde, Advocate, relating to the Moderation of a Call to Dr Finlayson.

Diets fixed for hearing causes.

Parties in the cause relating to the Little Kirk or Chapel of Ease in the town of Elgin, heard. After reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly affirm the judgment of the Presbytery of Elgin, finding that a Chapel of Ease in the town of Elgin is at present unnecessary and inexpedient, and therefore refuse the request of the petition: And another Motion was made, and seconded, That the Assembly reverse the Judgment of the Presbytery, remove the Interdict, and allow the New Chapel to be on the same footing with the Little Kirk. The Assembly agreed to this state of the Vote, Affirm or Reverse. And the Roll being called, and Votes marked, it carried, Affirm. The Assembly, therefore, affirmed the Judgment of the Presbytery of Elgin, finding, that a Chapel of Ease in the Town of Elgin is at present unnecessary

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unnecessary and inexpedient, and refuse the request of the Petition.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Tuesday, May 27. 1800. Sess. 5.

Sederunt.

New Commissions produced.

Several Members dissented from the Sentence of Assembly respecting the Chapel of Ease at Elgin.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

Report of the Committee for Bills given in, and read.

Hearing of Causes fixed.

Synod Books called for.

An Appeal by Robert Sharp, Preses of the Committee of Managers of the Chapel of Ease of Rothsay, for himself, and the other Members of said Committee, and others, from a sentence of the Presbytery of Denoon, of the 6th current, heard. After reasoning, a motion was made, and seconded, That the Assembly affirm the Sentence of the Presbytery of Denoon, and dismiss the Petition as groundless. And another motion was made, and seconded, That the Assembly reverse the Sentence of the Presbytery of Denoon, complained of; and recommend it to the Reverend Mr Maclea to grant Certificates of Moral Character, where no objection lies against it, to the Members of the Chapel of Ease, for the purpose of obtaining Baptism to their Children from the Minister of that Congregation. The Assembly then agreed to this state of the Vote, Affirm or Reverse; and the Roll being called, and Votes marked, it carried by a great majority, Affirm. The Assembly, therefore, affirmed the Sentence of the Presbytery of Denoon, and dismissed the Petition as groundless.

The cause of Penpont delayed till Saturday.

Adjournment.

Wednesday, May 28. 1800. Sess. 6.

Sederunt.

Committees appointed to meet.

Upon a Motion, it was unanimously agreed, That an humble and loyal Address should be presented to his Majesty on the present situation of Public Affairs: And the same Committee, which drew up the former Address to his Majesty on his escape from Assassination, appointed to draw up the present Address, and to lay the same before the Assembly on Friday.

An Appeal, by Mr Andrew Bell, Minister of Crail; and Mr James Nairn, Minister of Pittenweem, from a Sentence of the Synod of Fife, of 8th April last, dismissing Complaints against different Judgments of the Presbytery of St Andrew's; and appointing that Presbytery to proceed to the Settlement of Dr Robert Arnot in the Parish of Kingsbarns, being partly heard, the

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the Assembly agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House, to meet immediately after the conclusion of the present Diet, and to proceed in the discussion of this Cause.

Adjournment.

Thursday, May 29, 1800. Sess. 7.

Sederunt.

The Public Accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the Table.

The Report of the Committee of the whole House, in the Cause of the Settlement of Kingbarns, was read, and approved of: And agreeably thereto, the Assembly affirmed the Sentences of the Presbytery of St Andrews, and Synod of Fife; and ordained the Presbytery to proceed to the Settlement of Dr Robert Arnot, in the Church and Parish of Kingbarns, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.—Against this Sentence, Mr Russell dissented; and those who adhered, were allowed to enter their Dissents next day.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Report of the Presbytery of Dundee; and agreed first to call to the Bar Dr Robert Small, whom they found to be the minister who had ordained the Elders on the 9th of September 1798. A member of the Presbytery was heard on the Report, and Dr Small was heard for himself: The Assembly find, That Dr Robert Small having delivered it as his opinion in the Kirk-session of Dundee, about the time when it was proposed to ordain the Elders, who were ordained 9th September 1798, that the Session should not insist on an obligation to subscribe the Confession of Faith and Formula, as a condition of ordaining Elders, because it was a new practice, not required by any law of the Church, and had prevented several of the most respectable persons in the congregation, and the best affected to the Church, from accepting of that office; having been selected to perform the service of ordaining the above-mentioned Elders, by the nomination of the Kirk-session, who, as is stated in one of his answers to the questions of the Presbytery, knew that he would not take any man at unawares, but would communicate to the Kirk-session all the questions he meant to put, and give the persons to be ordained time to think seriously; and having put to the said Elders, before their ordination, in face of the Congregation, questions which were previously communicated by him to the Kirk-session, and which he appears, from another of his answers to the questions of Presbytery, to have presumed might have been answered in the affirmative by persons who were not able, with a safe conscience, to give an assent to the whole of the Confession of Faith; has discovered an ignorance of those laws of the Church by which all Elders received into communion with us in Church-government are obliged to subscribe their approbation of the Confession of Faith; has disparaged, in the opinion of those with
b whom

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whom, by his station, he is most nearly connected, the practice which prevails universally in this Church, of requiring Elders, at the time of their ordination, to declare explicitly, either by word, or by the subscription of the above-mentioned Formula, their assent to all that is therein contained; and has done what had a tendency to deprive the Church of Scotland of that security for the stability of her Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government, which, under God, she derives from the avowed conformity of all her Office-bearers to her Standards; enjoin Dr Small to be careful hereafter to testify, by his whole conduct, that respect for the Standards of this Church, and for the fences wisely provided by our Ecclesiastical Constitution, against dangerous innovation, which corresponds both to the declaration stated in his defences, as repeatedly made by him in the Kirk-session of Dundee, that he gloried in the Confession of Faith; and also to the solemn engagements under which he came at the time of his ordination, to concur with the Presbyterian Government and Discipline of this Church, and never to endeavour, directly nor indirectly, the prejudice or subversion thereof; order this sentence to be engrossed in the records of the Presbytery of Dundee, and of the Kirk-session of Dundee.

The consideration of the remainder of the Report from the Presbytery of Dundee delayed till to-morrow.
Committee for Overtures appointed to meet,
Adjournment.

Friday, May 30. 1800. *Sess.* 8.

Sederunt.

Several members adhered to the dissent of yesterday, against the Sentence respecting the settlement at Kingsbarns.

The draught of an Address to his Majesty on the present situation of Public Affairs, was brought in and approved; which Address, his Grace the Lord High Commissioner was pleased, at the Assembly's request, to undertake to transmit to his Majesty.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read. Causes fixed for hearing.

The Report of the Committee on the cause of the Schoolmaster of Bothwell given in and read. The Assembly approve of the Report, and remit to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to take the proper steps for carrying the sentence of the House of Lords into effect: And in so far as the Report concerns the account of Expences already incurred, refer the same to the Committee on Public Accounts. And, upon a motion made, the thanks of the House were given from the Chair to the Reverend Dr Macculloch, for his great diligence, perseverance and merit, in promoting the success of this cause. And further, the Assembly appoint the Committee on this cause to meet and consider the best mode of renewing the subscription, and to report to the Assembly on Monday. And the Moderator,

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rator, at the Assembly's desire, returned their grateful thanks to the Procurator, for his great attention and ability displayed in the service of the Church, and particularly in this important cause.

The Report of the Trustees of the Fund established by act of Parliament for a Provision to Ministers' Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the Fund under their Management, given in, and ordered to lie on the Table till to-morrow: And, upon a Motion, the thanks of the House were given from the Chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, for his great fidelity, attention, and prudence in the management of the Fund.

As agreed yesterday, the Assembly proceeded in the consideration of the Report of the Presbytery of Dundee; and first called Mr David Davidson to the Bar, who appeared accordingly. A Member of Assembly from the Presbytery of Dundee, was heard in continuation, on the Report: And then Mr Davidson was heard for himself: The Assembly after reasoning, agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House to proceed further in this Cause immediately on the conclusion of this Diet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 31. 1800. Sess. 9.

Sederunt.

The Report of the Committee of the whole House on the Report from the Presbytery of Dundee, read and approved of: And therefore, agreeably thereto, the Assembly remit the whole of that part of the Report of the Presbytery of Dundee, which respects Mr Davidson, to the said Presbytery, that they may proceed therein as they shall see cause, according to the rules of the Church: Dismiss the Petition and Complaint of the Kirk-session of Dundee as incompetent: and find, That with regard to the Petition of Dr Blinshall, it is unnecessary to remit it to probation, as no charge appears to have been brought against him, that in any degree affects his character. And the Assembly unanimously approve of the fidelity and diligence with which the Presbytery of Dundee executed the laborious business committed to them by last Assembly.

Upon Report of the Committee on Public Accounts, the Assembly authorised the Procurator to pay L. 50 this year out of the Funds of the Church to Mr Spottiswoode, solicitor at London, in order to extinguish part of a balance due to him on account of the appeal relative to the Schoolmaster of Bothwell: And further, to pay to Mr Murray, Agent for the Church, who attended to this Cause for the space of six years, during which he had an extensive correspondence and a great deal of trouble, the sum of Twenty-five Guineas for his own and clerks' trouble.

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Act approving of the Account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 510 : 4 : 1 $\frac{4}{12}$ Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he give credit in his next account for the sum of L. 107 : 11 : 1 $\frac{0}{12}$ Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the Account of Mr William Murray, Agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 154 : 17 : 11 $\frac{6}{12}$ Sterling disbursed by him; and appointing that he take credit in his next account, for the sum of L. 23, 12 s. 11 $\frac{6}{12}$ d. being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the Account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 24 : 5 : 10, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the Account of Stationary Articles furnished to the Clerks by Mr Elphinston Balfour, and ordering payment thereof.

The Procurator authorised to pay to Mr Alexander Frazer, Minister of Torosay, L. 11 : 19 : 7, being the amount of an account of expences laid out by him anent the designation of a glebe.

The Procurator authorised to pay L. 5 Sterling out of the funds of the Church, for defraying a part of the expence of printing the Report of the Presbytery of Dundee, which came before this Assembly, in respect of the peculiar nature of the case.

A petition for Mr William Milligan, Minister of Kirkden, read. The Assembly remitted the process therein mentioned to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to be carried on at the public expence.

The Report of the Visitors of the Commission Record called for; the Commission's conduct approved of, thanks given to the Moderator of the Commission, and their book ordered to be attested.

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The Report of the Committee for naming Members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions to them, given in, and approved. The Assembly added thereto Mr John Inglis, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator.

The Report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty Record given in, and read. The conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

No. VII. A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission and instructions to them.

The Report of the Trustees of the Fund established by Act of Parliament, for a Provision to Ministers' Widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the former powers.

An

ABRIDGMENT, 1800.

An Appeal by Mr William Sibbald and Mr James Crichton, Commissioners from the Presbytery of Lochmaben, from a Sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, passed on the 16th of April last, in a cause, wherein the Presbytery had given judgment, being a reference from the Kirk-session of St Mungo, relative to Mr John Irving Bell, or Mr John Bell Irvine at Whitehill, heard: The Assembly unanimously affirmed the Sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, reversing the Sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, remitting the cause to the Presbytery, with instructions to inquire into the truth of the facts alleged as the ground of the Appeal; and appointing the Appellant to lead a proof of said alleged facts before the Presbytery, and the Presbytery to proceed therein, according to the rules of the Church.

An Appeal by Mr John Nivieson, Minister at Penpont, from a Sentence of the Synod of Dumfries of the 15th October last, in a Libel at the instance of the Presbytery of Penpont against him, charging him with divers immoralities, heard: The Assembly unanimously affirmed the Sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, finding, that the particular charges brought forward in the minor proposition of the Libel in support of the expression in the major proposition, of scandalous, loose and indecent behaviour, should be struck out from the Libel; and at the same time, leaving it to the Presbytery to inquire into these, or any other facts and circumstances which may tend to prove the Libel. And the Assembly instruct the Presbytery to pay particular attention to the direction given by last Assembly, that no criminal act be admitted to proof within a time not exceeding the period of one year from the date of the Libel: And instruct the Presbytery to admit a proof only of such facts and circumstances tending to support the part of the Libel, found relevant, as fell within the five years from the date of the original Libel.

The Settlement of Inverness, and the Petition of Mr Skene Keith, delayed till Monday.

Adjournment.

Monday, June 2. 1800. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

Mr Lapslie withdrew his Petition, dissenting and complaining of a Sentence of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr of the 8th October last, allowing the Presbytery of Lanark to proceed to the trials of Mr Robert Crawford, Student in Divinity, in order to his being licensed to preach the Gospel.

Reasons of Dissent from the Decision of the Assembly in the case of the Settlement of Kingsbarns were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Reasons of Dissent from the Judgment of the Assembly respecting the Chapel of Ease at Elgin, were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

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The

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The Synod-Book of Lothian and Tweeddale ordered to be Attested.

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No. IX.
No. X.

Upon Report of the Committee appointed to class returns to Overtures, the Assembly ordered these Overtures to be re-transmitted, viz. Overture respecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall: Overture respecting the Course of University Education, &c. and, Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers. And the Assembly enjoin such Presbyteries as have sent no Reports, to send them to next Assembly.

No. XI. Report of the Committee on Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools, given in and read.

No. XII. Recommendation for promoting a Subscription towards defraying the Expence of the Appeal, in the Cause relating to the Schoolmaster of Bothwell; and Order for printing the Appeal Case prepared by the Procurator.

From the Report of the Committee on the Orkney Grievances, the Assembly learn, with much satisfaction, that some of these grievances are in a fair way of being gradually removed. The Committee on this subject renewed, with the same powers as formerly to the Procurator and Agent; and in particular, recommend the Case of the Church of St Andrew's to the attention of the Procurator for aid out of the Funds of the Church, if he shall judge it necessary. And on a motion made, the Assembly added Mr Lapslie to the number of the Committee.

An Appeal at the instance of the Honourable Archibald Frazer of Lovat, Patron, and the Reverend Mr Patrick Grant, Minister of Boleskin and Abertarph, Presentee to the Church and Parish of Inverness, from a Sentence of the Synod of Moray, heard: The Assembly affirm the Sentence of the Synod of Moray, with this variation, That the Presbytery of Inverness shall take the proper steps for the Settlement of Lovat's Presentee, on the first Tuesday of August next, unless the Presbytery shall have raised and executed a Summons of Declarator of their right to present, *tanquam jure devoluto*, before that time.

A Petition for William Douglas of Castle-Douglas, Esq; and others, respecting the Erection of a Chapel of Ease at Castle-Douglas, heard. The Assembly remit to the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, with instructions to send up to the next Assembly a particular Report respecting these three points, viz. An account of the Population of the Parish: What numbers the Parish Church of Kelton will at present contain: and, Whether the Heritors of the Parish will consent that the Petitioners shall be allowed, at their own Expence, to make such an addition to the Parish Church as may be sufficient for their accommodation.

List of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

All

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All Causes brought before this Assembly, and not decided, referred to the Commission.

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The Minutes of this day's Sederunt were read; the Minutes of former Sederunts having been read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next diet of Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with Prayer, Singing of Psalms, and Acts, No. XIII. pronouncing the Blessing.

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